

## Gallaudet Fact—

Q. How many people were served by the Clerc Center's outreach programs in Fiscal Year 2006?

Answer on page 2.



The Gallaudet community was given a chance to learn more about homelessness, a problem that many face in Washington, D.C., but few fully understand. Community Service Programs and Campus Activities sponsored a presentation on November 2 by the National Coalition on Homelessness and its Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau. Mike O'Neill, Speakers' Bureau coordinator for the coalition, gave information on homelessness in the United States, showed a film on an alarming trend of violence against people who are homeless, and then introduced three panelists who are or have been homeless in the D.C. area. Panelist David Pirtle, pictured above with GIS interpreter Stephanie Deja, cited a lack of affordable housing as the main factor that put an estimated 3.5 million people on the street last year. Pirtle also discussed problems of inadequate homeless shelters and described how he helped to organize a successful effort to keep a local shelter open. O'Neill and the panelists presented ways that citizens can help, which they summarize with the acronym CARE: contribute, advocate, reach out, and educate. An easy thing that anyone can do to start to address the problem, they said, is to reach out with a kind look or a few words.

## GRI's Priority Grants deadline approaching

Research funds are awarded annually to proposals for studies directly addressing the University's research priorities. To view these priorities, get an application packet, or see a list of previously funded studies, go to "Funding Opportunities" at [gri.gallaudet.edu](http://gri.gallaudet.edu).

The extended deadline for completed applications is December 4.

For more information, contact either [charles.reilly@gallaudet.edu](mailto:charles.reilly@gallaudet.edu) or [senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu](mailto:senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu).

## IN THIS ISSUE

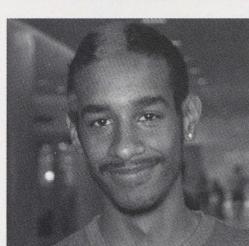


### I. King Jordan Lecture Series

Linda Jordan speaks about her experiences as first lady at Gallaudet.



Susan Higgins (center), Delta Zeta scholarship winner, attends the annual Delta Zeta Foundation Award luncheon.



### Roving Reporter

Jeremy Lee Sanchez expresses his gratitude for the assistance of excellent tutors at Gallaudet.



Urika Kvist-Nordstrom, coordinator of international programs for Orebro University in Sweden, visits Gallaudet on November 1.

# ON THE GREEN

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## Board begins process of identifying interim president

*(Note: The following email message was sent to the campus community on November 13 by Board of Trustees Chair Pamela Holmes following a weekend meeting by the Board of Trustees at Gallaudet to discuss the selection of an interim president.)*

The Gallaudet University Board of Trustees has begun the process of identifying an interim president to begin service on January 1, 2007. Following a full day of meetings with key constituency groups, including students, faculty, alumni, and staff, the board met in executive session to establish the process set forth in this memorandum.

"The board expects to appoint an interim president with the following characteristics:

- Possession of a terminal degree
- Higher education knowledge, experience, and credentials
- Shared vision: an inclusive, academically excellent university
- Proven leadership ability
- Knowledge of fundraising and congressional relations
- Ability to lead efforts to enhance respect for diversity
- Ability to bridge different constituencies
- Budget/fiscal management experience
- Fluency in American Sign Language and knowledge of deaf culture
- Highest standards of integrity and ethics
- Support for K-12 education and LCC national mission efforts

Simultaneously with issuance of this memorandum, the board has issued a call for nominations and indications of interest. The call is posted on the Gallaudet University website and individuals who wish to make nominations, including self-nominations, may do so by sending an email to [pam.holmes@captel-mail.com](mailto:pam.holmes@captel-mail.com).

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### Interim president search

## Gallaudet's online classes offer unique opportunities

Tudy Suggs, an instructor for online writing classes at Gallaudet and owner of T.S. Writing Services, teaches from a log house outside of Faribault, Minn.—or anywhere else in the country her business travels take her. Her students can attend class in their living rooms, a sunny park, a coffee house, or anywhere else with an Internet connection.

The flexibility is a major draw for instructors like Suggs and many online students. "With online courses, you can log in at any time of the day or night from anywhere in the world," Suggs said.

To provide personal interaction that students would get in a classroom setting, Suggs arranges opportunities for real-time discussion, such as weekly class chats online. Suggs' classes, which focus on topics like grant writing and business writing, are just some of the growing number of online courses offered at Gallaudet.

Five other Gallaudet faculty members also teach in this cutting edge way and enjoy the new opportunities they find.

"All of them love the fact that they can conduct their courses from campus or home or even on the road traveling or at conferences," observed Jacqueline Mann, coordinator of the Graduate School and Professional Programs Enrollment Office. Mann has

also noticed that professors can attract different kinds of students with these courses, especially professionals already working in the field they are studying or who want to learn a new subject.

Dr. Amy Wilson, associate professor in Educational Foundations and Research, described a unique dynamic between students in her online classes on international development. Professionals with experience working in the field but perhaps unfamiliar with disability issues can meet students already versed in those issues who, conversely, are just beginning to learn about international development.

Another advantage of having professionals in online courses is their enthusiasm for the subject. Dr. Lois Bragg, a professor of English, said she noticed that professionals who take her courses "are not overly concerned with a grade. They are taking the course for fun or to expand their knowledge of deaf culture and history."

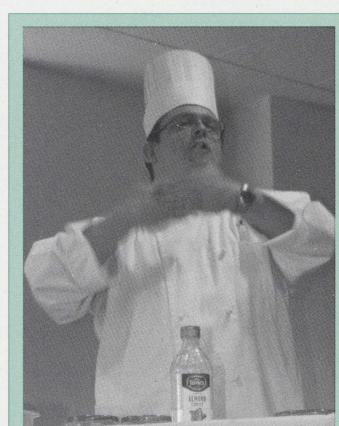
Overall, Wilson said, "The interaction between the class members is interesting and eye-opening for everyone."

Rev. Jay Croft, who took a four-week course on deaf authors with Bragg, was very pleased with the results. This semi-retired minister met students from all over the country and, although they were never

in a classroom together, they had a hefty dialogue. "In four short weeks, we posted over 700 comments!" Croft mused.

One factor of online courses that might intimidate faculty and students is the technology involved. However, it seems that

*continued on page 2*



Tasty ideas were in the air on November 9 when the Department of Business hosted Entrepreneurs Day with guest presenter Matthew Krueger, pictured above. Krueger, a 1993 graduate of Gallaudet who is based in Indianapolis, Ind., founded Exceptional Personal Chef Services, LLC, in 2003. His successful business provides cooking for families, private parties, and major events as well as offering cooking lessons and interactive cooking parties. Along with anecdotes from his life as a chef, Krueger provided cooking demonstrations, explanations of how he runs his business, and free samples of some of his specialties.



I. King Jordan  
Lecture Series



Linda Jordan

Many people know about the ghostly visitation that greeted I. King and Linda Jordan on their first night in the Edward Miner Gallaudet (EMG) Residence, also known as House One. The couple later surmised that the repeated auditory disturbances, heard only by Mrs. Jordan, should be credited to the ghost of first president EMG, testing to see if the University did, at last, have its first deaf president.

Until recently, few had the chance to learn this story from someone whose life was changed by taking up residency in House One. Linda Jordan provided the opportunity to hear that story—as well as many others—at her recent I. King Jordan Lecture Series presentation, “Getting Centered.”

Jordan explained the title of her talk as a “life term” about being “self-confident and oriented.” It is also a pottery phrase for preparing the clay on the wheel. Both senses of the word have meaning for Jordan in her experiences at Gallaudet.

In her own telling of the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement, Jordan explained that getting centered was a challenge. As only she could, Jordan recalled some of the frenzied days leading up to Dr. Jordan assuming the presidency. It took some wise words from retired president Edward Merrill to help Dr. Jordan feel confident in his path, Jordan recalled. She said Dr. Merrill advised her husband to “think with your heart, act with your heart, and do what your heart tells you to do.”

Then Jordan recalled other experiences from that time—a call from the media late one night asking if it was true that Elisabeth Zinser had resigned (“I don’t know—I’ve been asleep,” Mrs. Jordan told them); a meeting with Greg Hlibok, the Student Body Government president and a leader of the protest (“Greg was the most cool, calm person I’ve ever seen under such circumstances,” Mrs. Jordan said); and how Dr. Jordan had asked Hlibok permission to speak in support of the protest at a press conference.

Part of adjusting to her life was deciding to leave her job as an elementary school teacher. “I hated staying home. I needed something that was my own. That’s when I found pottery,” Jordan said. She has been creating and teaching

## pottery in the Japanese tradition for the past 15 years.

Although Jordan hinted that she would leave her travels out of the talk, she did describe some of her adventures with her husband. They found a deaf community everywhere they went in the world, and at times the deaf community found them. Dr. and Mrs. Jordan, during a year of living in Scotland, once happened upon a weaver’s shop in the Outer Hebrides. Dr. Jordan sensed immediately that the weaver was deaf. On their next visit to the region they met a deaf woman on a bus. She invited them to her

home for tea and they soon learned that she was the weaver’s sister. They quickly forged a connection and the Jordans have gone back to visit many times.

During a stay in Japan, as Dr. and Mrs. Jordan searched for a traditional noodle restaurant for her birthday dinner, a group recognized them, excitedly signing “Deaf president! Deaf president!”

The Jordans were driven around Tokyo, where more and more people crammed into the car, until they eventually arrived at an American-style steakhouse. Their carload was joined by deaf youth from Asia Pacific countries who

were attending a leadership conference in Tokyo and learned that the president of Gallaudet was in town. Jordan did not get the noodle dinner she had hoped for, but had the chance to celebrate with a global group of admirers.

Linda Jordan rounded out her presentation with her own version of the House One ghost story. At first it was a window clanging, Jordan explained, that woke her that first night in House One. She woke her husband, who went to investigate and then firmly closed the offending window. Everything seemed in order, so they went back to sleep, until the first lady was again awakened by the window. After another round of waking up her husband, securing the window, and going back to sleep, the fire alarm went off. At that time, House One did not have flashing lights to accompany the ringing of the fire alarm, so once more it was only Mrs. Jordan who woke up. With each disturbance, she noticed, “As soon as (King’s) feet touched the floor, the noise stopped.” The fresh telling of this story rounded out the many stories Jordan had related.

“Are we [indicating Dr. Jordan and herself] centered yet?” Mrs. Jordan asked the audience at the end. Many in the room nodded their head in response, others waited for her response. Seeing the reaction of the crowd, she nodded, shook her finger and said, “No, not yet, but we’re gonna work on it.”

## Among Ourselves

Barry Bergen, a professor in the Department of Government and History, was the commentator for a panel entitled “Deaf Education and Deaf Identity from the French Revolution to the Mid-Nineteenth Century” at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Western Society for French History, in Long Beach, Calif., October 19 to 22. Professor Donna Ryan of the Government and History Department served as chair for the panel. Bergen was also elected to the Governing Council of the Society.

Martha Sheridan, associate professor in the Department of Social Work, recently gave the opening address at the National Conference on Deaf Adolescents: Leaving No One Behind. Her presentation, “Emerging Themes in the Study of Deaf Adolescents,” was based on her Gallaudet Research Institute-funded research project, which will be published in a forthcoming book by the Gallaudet University Press.



Photo by Patsy Bowman

Delta Zeta sorority sisters gathered at a luncheon at B. Smith’s restaurant in Washington’s Union Station on October 26 for the annual Delta Zeta Foundation Scholarship Award. During the event, members of the National Delta Zeta Foundation presented scholarships to five Gallaudet women and a gift of \$25,000 to the University’s Delta Zeta Fine Arts Endowment Fund. Returns from the endowed fund benefit both the Gallaudet Dance Company and the Theater Arts Department. The Office of Development hosted the event, which has become an anticipated tradition for Gallaudet and the Delta Zeta Foundation. Pictured (from left) are: seated—Leslie Williams, foundation president; Joan Lowry, Delta Zeta Gallaudet liaison; Juanita Cebe, theatrical coordinator, Department of Theatre Arts; Ruth Patterson, Delta Zeta Foundation president; Linda Jordan; scholarship recipient Kimberly Grey; Teresa Gasaway, president of Gallaudet’s Delta Zeta chapter; scholarship recipient Susan Higgins; Dr. Diane Hottendorf, professor of dance and director of the Gallaudet Dance Company; standing—scholarship recipient Rita Ann DeBono; Paula McQuillan, foundation trustee; Dr. Jane Fernandes; and scholarship recipients Linda Greeno and Yessica Martinez.

## Online classes

*continued from page 1*

this is rarely a barrier. Croft admitted that he is by no means a computer whiz, but he found the Blackboard online system easy to use.

Professors are similarly pleased. “Academic Technology has been great in obtaining programs that make online teaching more alive and they are very helpful in training me, and others, in using new programs,” said Wilson.

Graduate School and Professional Programs is happy to accept new online course instructors. For anyone considering developing and teaching a course, Dr. Bragg’s advice is “Go for it!”

*Information on teaching an online course is available at [extendedlearning.gallaudet.edu/pstpackage.html](http://extendedlearning.gallaudet.edu/pstpackage.html)*

## Gallaudet Fact

A. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Clerc Center directly served 49,216 people through training programs, presentations and exhibits at conferences, internships for college students, visits for professionals, and information via email. In addition, the Clerc Center distributed over 362,000 publications to disseminate information and products to improve student achievement during that year.

*(Information from the upcoming yearly report for FY 2006, due out in January 2007.)*

## ON THE GREEN

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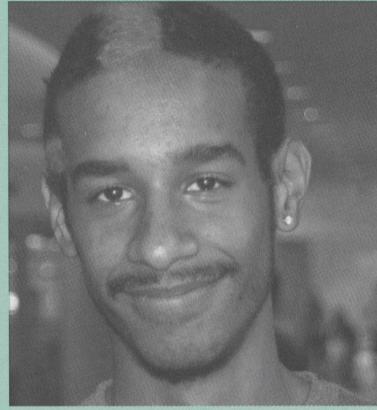
## Roving Reporter

It's Thanksgiving time, giving everyone an opportunity to reflect on why they are grateful. What are you thankful for at Gallaudet?



*I am grateful that I have both colleagues and friends here. That is rare in a workplace.*

—Eloise Molock, director, Student Development Programs



*I'm thankful that Gallaudet provides excellent tutors who can help with projects or correct my writing.*

—Jeremy Lee Sanchez, student



*After graduating from Gallaudet with B.S. and M.A. degrees, I thanked the Clerc Center for the wonderful opportunity to work as an early childhood teacher and team leader on Team 1/2/3 for six years. Now I thank the Family and Child Studies Department for hiring me as a full-time faculty member.*

—Samuel Weber, instructor, Department of Family and Child Studies

## Campus Calendar

December

4—Monthly PFLAG meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB S135

6—GRI First Wednesday Research Seminars: "Evaluating the Clerc Center's Shared Reading Project," with Dr. Linda Delk, research scientist, Exemplary Programs and Research, Clerc Center, noon-1 p.m., Jordan Center 1011

7—Signing Gospel Winter Concert 2006, free and open to the public, 7-9 p.m., Elstad Auditorium; Holiday Open House for university students, 3:30-5 p.m., House One

8—Fall semester classes end; Last day to withdraw with WP/WF grade—graduate students; Last day to change to incomplete grades; Career Center hosts Consortium Professional Development Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Jordan Center Multipurpose Room; Holiday Open House for Faculty, Teachers, and Staff, 1-4 p.m., House One

12-15—Fall semester final examination period

## Administration & Finance

### It's flu season

We are entering cold and influenza season. Colds and flu share some of the same symptoms. How can you tell which one you may have?

- A cold often starts with feeling tired, sneezing, coughing, and a runny nose. It may be accompanied by a low fever, scratchy throat, headache, and muscle aches. These are relatively mild compared to flu symptoms.
- Flu symptoms often start suddenly and are severe. In addition to a weak feeling, it may frequently be experienced with a fever, chills, severe headache, muscle aches, eye pain, and a bad cough.

#### Good news!

Individuals who get a flu shot reduce their chances of being sick from the flu by 70 percent—and if they don't get the flu, they can't give it to their friends or family. Flu shots may also offer some protection against the Bird Flu.

#### What if?

##### If you get the flu...

- Stay home and rest
- Stop smoking
- Drink a lot of fluids like water and fruit juices but no alcohol
- Gargle with warm salt water
- Stay in a humid environment

##### See your health care provider if you have...

- Persistent fever greater than 101 degrees
- Trouble breathing (not stuffy nose)
- Earache, persistent cough, fainting, vomiting, or persistent headache

##### What about antibiotics?

Antibiotics have no direct effect on the flu. Antibiotics may be helpful if the flu causes secondary infections such as bronchitis, sinusitis, or pneumonia. There are two medications, Tamiflu and Zanamivir, specifically for treating flu. They have to be taken in the first 48 hours of the start of flu symptoms. When taken early they reduce the severity and duration of flu symptoms. Both of these medications can prevent getting the flu if someone is exposed to it. □



Ulrika Kvist-Nordstrom (left), coordinator of international programs for Orebro University, Sweden, and the Gallaudet University-Orebro Exchange Program, was welcomed to Gallaudet November 1 by Office of International Programs and Services Director Bunmi Aina and Global Education Specialist Larry Musa. Pictured with Kvist-Nordstrom is Elin Zackrisson, a childhood education major at Orebro who is enrolled at Gallaudet this academic year through the Exchange Program. The program was established in 2002 to afford Gallaudet students the opportunity to go abroad and study Swedish society, language, and culture, and likewise for Swedish deaf students to come to Gallaudet and study U.S. deaf culture, ASL, and deaf education.

## Ask Aunt Sophie

Aunt Sophie bids adieu to Kendall Green; search committee formed to find her replacement

Aunt Sophie held a press conference last week at which she announced the beginning a new chapter in her life, a chapter, alas, that does not include serving her beloved Kendall Green as chief nagger and advisor. With a smile and a twinkle Sophie told reporters and admirers that she is moving to the South of France where she will grow lavender and write her memoirs. When asked what she will remember most about her years as an advice columnist, Aunty did not hesitate: "I shall forever be comforted knowing that I introduced the sport of Hibernian Fruitcake Tossing to Gallaudet and beyond." Then, becoming dewy-eyed, she added: "My one regret is that I was

unable to do anything to ease the anxiety caused by the insidious self-flushing toilets that plague our campus and seem to have minds of their own!"

Speaking on behalf of the Gallaudet community, Cathy Sweet-Windham, executive director of Institutional Advancement, heaped praise and gratitude upon the diminutive Sophie.

"While replacing Aunt Sophie will be a significant challenge, the search process will begin immediately," Sweet-Windham said. "I am confident we will find someone equally competent and committed to take on this important campus duty."

A job description for this position will be published in the next *On the Green*. In the meantime, Ms. Sweet-Windham will convene a search committee that includes a cross-section of *On the Green* readers.

## Clerc Center Happenings

### Clerc Center hosts first stakeholder meeting



Participants in the stakeholder meeting held November 6 and 7 gather with Clerc Center Dean Katherine Jankowski (seated, second from right), for a group photo.

By Susan M. Flanigan

The Clerc Center hosted the first of an ongoing series of National Mission Stakeholder Meetings on November 6 and 7. A total of 22 parents, administrators, teachers, and speech, language, and communication professionals participated. The participants offered valuable feedback related to the Clerc Center's family involvement efforts, language planning, web dissemination strategies, and distance education.

A number of teachers and staff from the Clerc Center attended the meeting as observers. "I'm very pleased with the outcome of the first stakeholder meeting," said Clerc Center Dean Katherine Jankowski. The participants provided

valuable insights and perspectives, and many of the observers from the Clerc Center appreciated the opportunity to hear from professionals and family members with diverse experiences."

The next stakeholder meeting will be held July 18 and 19 in Massachusetts. Anyone who knows professionals in the field or family members who could provide insightful feedback, please encourage them to complete an interest form at: [clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/stakeholder/form.asp](http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/stakeholder/form.asp). Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Clerc Center. Participants will be selected to ensure a balance of representation from our constituent groups at each stakeholder meeting. □

The following participants were in the Clerc Center's November 6 and 7 National Mission Stakeholder Meeting:

#### Parents, family members, and caregivers

Beth Caverly, Royal Oak, Mich.; Lisa Crawford, Austin, Tex.; Jacqueline Gomez, Lawrence, Mass.; Brenda Lancaster, Overland Park, Kan.; Danielle Long, Bedford, N.H.

#### Speech, language, and communication professionals

Holly Geeslin, Indianapolis, Ind.; Sandee Kester, Springfield, Va.; Mary Ann Kinsella-Meier, Highland, Md.; Adele Proctor, Champaign, Ill.

#### Classroom teachers from mainstream programs

Debra Hornfeldt, Lakeland, Minn.; Nancy Little, Seattle, Wash.; Matthew Martinez, Houston, Tex.; Charlene Rodriguez, Albuquerque, N.M.; Angela Spiers, Olive Branch, Miss.

#### Administrators from residential schools for deaf students and mainstream programs

Sandra Alcazar, San Antonio, Tex.; Maryann Barth, Florence, Ky.; Marcy Dicker, Brookfield, Wisc.; Joseph Fischgrund, Philadelphia, Pa.; Jan Goike, Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.; Deborah Harris, Memphis, Tenn.; Reginald Redding, Wilson, N.C.; Todd Reeves, Vancouver, Wash.

*continued from page 1*

"The board expects the interim president will serve on an interim basis only, for a period of 18 months. The board and the interim president, by mutual agreement, may extend this period for an additional six months, if needed.

"The board hereby creates an Interim President Selection Advisory Committee (IPSAC) and asks that it provide assistance by considering a diverse range of candidates to serve as interim president and make recommendations consistent with the below.

"IPSAC will recommend three to five candidates to the Board of Trustees, which will then fulfill its responsibility as the governing body for the University by selecting one of those individuals as interim president. The board reserves the right to request additional candidates from IPSAC. IPSAC will have the responsibility of preparing a brief written report about each of the recommended candidates, discussing strengths and weaknesses; it shall not provide any ranking of the recommended candidates.

"IPSAC shall consist of the following members: one student, SBG; one student, GSA; one student, International Students Association; one student, Coalition of Students of Color; two faculty; two University staff; one Clerc Center teacher; one Clerc Center staff; two alumni; two administrators; and one member of the Board of Trustees.

"The members of IPSAC will be selected by the constituency groups they represent. The respective constituency groups are expected to confirm that their representatives are available to serve. The chair of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Pamela Holmes, will select the chair of IPSAC, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the board. She or her designee also will serve on the IPSAC in an ex officio capacity. A quorum of eight shall be required for IPSAC decisions. An individual will be hired to provide full-time staff support to IPSAC.

"In its work, IPSAC may develop

additional procedures consistent with this memorandum. It should confirm that each recommended candidate is available to begin service on January 1, 2007. It may, but need not, conduct video or in person interviews of the individuals it considers.

"The schedule for the selection of the interim president, which is very aggressive and will be adhered to rigorously, is as follows:

- November 13: issuance of this memorandum
- November 15, 5 p.m.: constituency groups to submit names, titles, and contact information of their selected IPSAC members
- November 16, 5 p.m.: board chair Ms. Holmes to select chair of IPSAC
- November 17: expected first meeting of IPSAC
- December 1: IPSAC to notify individuals on its recommended list of their selection
- December 6, 5 p.m.: IPSAC to send brief written reports to board chair Ms. Holmes
- December 9: board meeting to interview recommended candidates
- December 11: board decision to be announced
- January 1, 2007: interim president to begin service

"IPSAC shall conduct its work in accordance with a confidentiality agreement that will be distributed at the first meeting.

"The board expects to announce a separate search process for the permanent president after an interim president has been selected.

*(Note: On November 16, Holmes sent an email informing the campus that all of the IPSAC members have been selected. To see the announcement, go to: [news.gallaudet.edu/?id=9776](http://news.gallaudet.edu/?id=9776))*

"Thank you." □

## Student Affairs Exposé

### Student-Athletes' GPA progress

By James DeStefano, athletics director

After a banner year for Gallaudet student-athletes, in which 68 were named to the All Capitol Athletic Conference (CAC) Academic Team, the Department of Athletics is proud to announce that the cumulative grade point average (GPA) for these student-athletes has surpassed the CAC average of 45.71 percent.

Gallaudet has watched the percentage of its high-achieving student-athletes more than double over the past six years. In 2000, 21.7 percent of student-athletes had GPAs over 3.2. In 2006, 46.3 percent of student-athletes possessed GPAs of more than 3.2. The first year that Gallaudet's overall student-athlete GPAs finished above the CAC average was in 2005.

DeStefano gives much of the credit for the steady improvement in the student-athlete's GPA's to the Tutorial and Instructional Programs unit, specifically, to efforts by Cindy Officer, academic support counselor, and Terry Coye, director. "They understand the value of athletics to the University, and their support of the athletics program has been incredible," he said. "I also credit the coaches

and their increased awareness of the importance of academics. The coaches have been instrumental in encouraging their players to focus on academics. Progress reports have allowed coaches to keep track of their athletes' standing in school."

The progress reports utilized by the Department of Athletics are the product of work done by the previous academic coordinator, Chad Duhon, who worked in this capacity for three years. Duhon established the progress report system as a way to track the grades and overall academic progress of student-athletes. The progress reports proved to be beneficial, allowing coaches to stay on top of their athletes' grades and to be able to give support when needed.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the results," said DeStefano. "This is a huge difference from five years ago. My first goal as athletic director was to improve the emphasis on academics. This has paid off. We wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of the Gallaudet community, especially faculty and staff." He added that the department looks forward to another year of excellence in both academics and athletics. □